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LETTERS TO THE STAR

White on Bissell

Columnist William S. White would have us believe the boys over at the CIA got together after the Cuban debacle and said, "Whom can we sacrifice to the public for this mess?" Then, someone rejoined, "How about old Richard Bissell?" and they all went out and leaked it to the press.

If this is really the way the CIA operates, we are in a whole lot of trouble. I choose to believe, however, that Mr. White's proposition is the fabrication of a day when no other subject for a column readily presented itself.

If Mr. Bissell's only part in the Cuban invasion failure was to counsel in favor of intervention, as Mr. White suggests, then it is obvious that he deserves a medal. But are we to believe that this was the total extent of his participation and that the bureaucracy at CIA, on that flimsy basis, proceeded to sell this story to the hard-digging Washington press corps?

Worse than that, are we to believe the President of the United States removed Mr. Bissell from his post at CIA because the bureaucracy convinced him of the same fantasy? If we are not to accept Mr. White's premise, then we must conclude that Mr. Bissell did, indeed, have a major role in the failure of the invasion.

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